

Calidris pusilla (Semipalmated Sandpiper)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Scolopacidae (Curlews, Dowitchers, Godwits, Knots, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, Snipe, Yellowlegs, And Woodcock)

General comments:

Recent surveys on the wintering grounds suggest Eastern population experiencing steep declines. Eastern and Central breeding populations experiencing significant long term (30 year) decline (Andres et al. 2012. Wader Study Group Bul. 119(3):178-194).

Species Conservation Range Maps for Semipalmated Sandpiper:

Town Map: [Calidris pusilla Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Calidris pusilla HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Calidris pusilla is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines:

Semipalmated Sandpiper is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes:

Recent surveys on the wintering grounds suggest Eastern population experiencing steep declines. Eastern and Central breeding populations experiencing significant long term (30 year) decline (Andres et al. 2012. Wader Study Group Bul. 119(3):178

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: 4

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Semipalmated Sandpiper:

Formation Name		Cliff & Rock	
Macrogroup Name		Rocky Coast	
Habitat System Name:		Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast	**Primary Habitat** Notes: primary roosting
Habitat System Name:		North Atlantic Cobble Shore	
Formation Name		Intertidal	
Macrogroup Name		Intertidal Bedrock	
Habitat System Name:		High Intertidal	
Habitat System Name:		Low-Intertidal	
Habitat System Name:		Mid-Intertidal	
Macrogroup Name		Intertidal Gravel Shore	
Habitat System Name:		High Intertidal	
Habitat System Name:		Lower Intertidal	

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Formation Name Intertidal

Habitat System Name: Mid-Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mudflat

Habitat System Name: Non-Vascular Mudflat

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Sandy Shore

Habitat System Name: Sand Beach

Habitat System Name: Sand Flat

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)

Habitat System Name: Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh

Habitat System Name: Coastal Plain Tidal Marsh

Stressors Assigned to Semipalmated Sandpiper:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity	
	Highly Actionable	High Severity
	Medium-High	High
	Medium	Medium-High
	Low	
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Human related disturbance can be minimized through outreach programs and environmental permit review.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Information on population status, pre migration condition, habitat use, and habitat quality is needed to determine conservation initiatives.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Activities in the intertidal areas can impact habitat and behavior

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Commercial and Industrial Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss from development can be mitigated through environmental permit review.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss from development can be mitigated through environmental permit review.

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IUCN Level 1 Threat **Climate Change and Severe Weather**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Sea level rise may be mitigated through conservation of upland areas that will allow intertidal habitats to migrate inland. Ocean acidification may impact invertebrate prey base.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Increasing ocean temperatures may impact invertebrate prey base.

IUCN Level 1 Threat **Pollution**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Mitigation from oil spill can occur through clean up and compensation. Prevention of chemical spills can occur through contingency planning and environmental permit review.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Semipalmated Sandpiper:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Shorebirds Guild:

Conservation Action **Category:** Survey and Monitoring **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going

Identify and map priority feeding and roosting areas including offshore habitats, and implement protection initiatives. Enter data in IFW ETSC database.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge, Industrial and Military Effluents, Housing and Urban Areas, Tourism and Recreational Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action **Category:** Species Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new

Place symbolic stake and twine fencing around important beach roosting areas with signage to identify roosting areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities, Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going

Work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to conduct research to determine the impact of macroalgae harvest on wintering waterfowl

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Conservation Action **Category:** Public Outreach **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going

Provide outreach to pet owners, beachgoers, kayakers, beach managers, and landowners to raise public awareness on shorebirds and on the impacts of disturbance from recreational activities in coastal areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

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Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
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Use voluntary agreements, conservation easements, conservation tax abatements and incentives to protect important habitats

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Work and Other Activities, Recreational Activities, Housing and Urban Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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To determine population status continue monitoring program for SGCN shorebird species at high priority migration sites coastwide. Continue to coordinate with ISS, PRISM, Atlantic Flyway ESMP programs.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Identify prey resources in significant staging areas to determine potential limiting factors and optimal management techniques to promote these resources.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Determine length of stay at stopover areas, site fidelity, local movements and premigration condition to determine if coastal habitats are meeting shorebird requirements for successful migration.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
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Determine limiting factors for SGCN shorebird species on breeding, migratory, or wintering areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Gain a better understanding of the extent and impacts of algae harvesting on staging and wintering shorebirds. Conduct longterm monitoring of ecosystem-wide impacts of cutting algae to determine potential impacts to shorebird habitats and invertebrate pr

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified

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in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.